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KIDNAPPER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS
Defendant Abducted and Took Two Girls to Mexico

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MARTIN MANUEL MONCALLO-RUIZ, 34, was sentenced today to 60 months in federal prison for the 2002 kidnaping of Ashley and Cindy Campos. The sentence, imposed this afternoon by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger, follows a week-long trial last June where a jury convicted MONCALLO-RUIZ of kidnaping through interstate transportation.

This case was the product of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Coalinga Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the United States Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. Assistant United States Attorneys Marlon Cobar and Jonathan B. Conklin prosecuted the case.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Marlon Cobar, the evidence at trial showed that in the early morning hours of August 10, 2002, MONCALLO-RUIZ violently abducted Cindy Campos, then 10, and her sister Ashley, then 8 from their mother's home in Coalinga, California. He then drove them to Ensenada, Mexico. The testimony at trial also detailed MONCALLO-RUIZ's plan to take the children in order to lure their mother to Mexico to reconcile his defunct romantic relationship with her. Upon learning of the abduction, the Coalinga Police Department immediately mustered the resources of state and federal law enforcement authorities. The CHP launched an "Amber" alert and the FBI secured an arrest warrant in coordination with Mexican authorities. Along with local law enforcement agents in Ensenada, investigators from the CHP's Border Liaison Unit recovered the two girls at the home of MONCALLO-RUIZ's brother where the defendant was also arrested. However, MONCALLO-RUIZ was later released by local Mexican authorities over a confusion as to whether the kidnaping charges would stand in the United States. He subsequently re-entered the United States and remained a fugitive until his arrest in June of 2003 by the FBI's Fugitive Task Force in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upon serving the 60-month prison term MONCALLO-RUIZ will be placed in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and will be subject to deportation to Mexico. If he remains in the United States, he is subject to a 3-year term of supervised release whereby he will be restrained from contact with the victims in the case, their mother and children under the age of eighteen.

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